



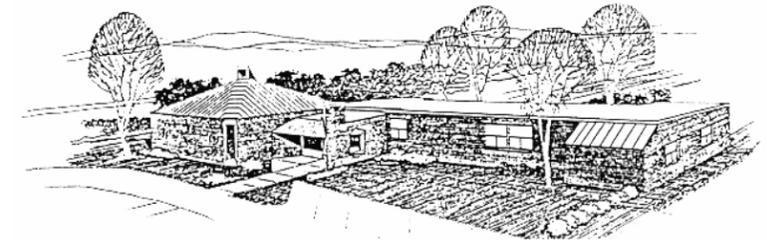
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U.S. POSTAGE
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Trussville, AL 35173
PERMIT NO. 52

THE PATHWAY

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS NEWSLETTER

MAY 2016



HUMILITY

One day in 1953, a tall man with bushy white hair and a big mustache stepped off the train at the Chicago railroad station. He was in town to receive the Nobel Peace Prize. As the cameras flashed and city officials approached with hands outstretched to meet him, he thanked them politely, then asked to be excused for a minute. He walked through the crowd to the side of an elderly black woman struggling with two large suitcases. He picked them up, smiled, and escorted her to her bus, helped her get on, and wished her a safe journey. Only then, when the little woman had been seen safely off, did Albert Schweitzer turn back towards the crowd and apologize that he had kept them waiting. It is reported that one member of the reception committee told a reporter, "That's the first time I ever saw a sermon walking." Schweitzer was one of the great men of recent history. By mid-life he was one of the world's most recognized and distinguished New Testament scholars, along with being one of the most celebrated concert organists in Europe. Few people ever achieve greatness in even one endeavor. Schweitzer was world-class in two! More astounding still, at the height of his fame Schweitzer abandoned both his scholarship and his music and shocked the world by entering medical school, becoming a doctor and establishing a medical clinic in the jungles of Africa, where he spent the remainder of his life. To see such a man lugging the suitcases of an elderly stranger, while reporters and photographers waited, must have been a sight to remember. Albert Schweitzer was a picture of humility.

I fear we badly misunderstand humility. We see it as a kind of enforced lowliness, a negative self-image, even self-loathing. We associate humility with meekness, timidity, and submission. Again, when we seek to understand any Christian virtue, including this one, we need to turn to the one surest source – Jesus himself. Jesus describes himself as "humble and lowly of heart." Yet he was a strong man, confident, bold, and unafraid. Debating with the religious leaders of his day, and having no position of official status, he nevertheless stands his ground. Bound and dragged before the Roman governor, who holds Jesus' very life in his hands, still he is calm, articulate, and unafraid. Humility is no coward.

Far from self-loathing, Christian humility is true self-awareness. Compared with the greatness of God, I am small. Compared with the righteousness of Jesus, I am a struggling sinner. All around me are persons whose gifts exceed mine by great measure. Comparing myself with others will lead only to envy, frustration, and insecurity. There is always someone more gifted than I am, stronger, smarter, more talented, etc., etc. What matters is not that I be the best, but that I be the best God has given it to me to be. If I would compare myself with anyone, let me look to Jesus and learn from him, and strive after his example, knowing I will never attain it but knowing further that his love for me is not conditioned on my success. His love for me is not a reward I receive at the end of the journey, but a joy that enriches me day by day.

Above all, Christian humility enables me to live in harmony and fellowship, not only with the God who accepts and treasures me, but with you, my brother or sister. Accepting one another's flaws and graces, we can love one another without pretense or manipulation. "Counting others better than ourselves," as Paul urges us, we can be open to each other, listening, caring, loving, and sharing. If pride separates us into camps of competitors, humility draws us together into communities of love. Loving relationships depend at least in part on my being willing to put aside my own agendas and goals, and let the needs of others take center stage. Such willingness is not self-deprecation, but love in action.

We've been given a great task - to live in harmony, to weep with the mournful, to laugh with the joyful, to avoid conceit, to be righteous -- but not self-righteous! As Paul says, "Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death--even death on a cross." (Philippians 2:5-8) If we let that wonderful example lead us in our discipleship, we'll be far more effective instruments in his service.

See you in church!

Steve +
SD+

Worshipping, Growing, Caring, and Sharing



MAY



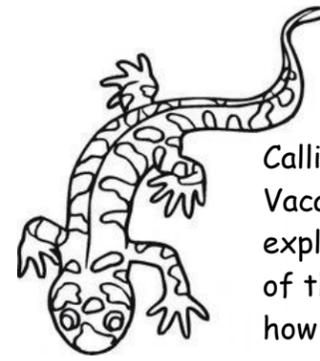
FORGIVE OUR MESS!

We apologize that our grounds are a bit of a mess these days, but the "mess" means progress! Our restroom renovation project is on track and should be completed by early June. When completed, a new enlarged ladies room will better serve our needs, and once the new restroom is completed and functional, the two existing restrooms will be renovated (one at a time). We will then have a four-stall ladies room, a dedicated men's room, and one unisex restroom for anyone (but especially for families with young children). If you have pledged to the Bathroom Campaign, please be faithful in keeping up your pledge. If you have not as yet contributed, see Heather Johnson or Anne Amick.



CALLING ALL CURSILLISTAS

This month's Ultreya will be held on Sunday, May 22nd. We will meet at 5:00pm in the Genesis Room. Bring your favorite covered dish and break bread with your fellow Cursillistas.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Calling all Cave Quest kids for Vacation Bible School! Be ready to explore Scripture and follow the light of the world, Jesus! We'll investigate how Jesus gives us hope, courage, and love. Cave Quest Vacation Bible School will take place June 20th - 23rd. To all interested volunteers: Please be on the lookout for an organizational meeting in May! This is always such a fun time for kids and adults. Please consider donating your talent to these wonderful children. If you have any questions, please contact Anne Mize at amize42@gmail.com.

Birthdays in May



Georgina Okoro	1
Sam Jamieson	4
Mary Lawrence Underwood	6
Stephané Daniel	10
Timothy Jacks	11
Tyler Johnson	12
Scott Southwick	14
Joe Barnard	15
Marissa Jamieson	16
Carson Chambliss	17
Karen Krueger	18
Hank Mize	18
Melody Edwards	20
Anne Mayo	22
Judy Clayton	22
Amanda Brannan	23
Cindy Wester	24
Cole Pate	24
Jacob Fyfe	25
Anne Amick	27
Joni Parrish	28
Ian Jones	29
Bob Peterson	30
Melissa Bain	30

Please inform the church office if your name does not appear in the month of your birthday.

Choral Evensong

The Holy Cross Choir will present A Choral Evensong for the Feast of the Ascension on Thursday, May 5th at 6:30pm. A uniquely Anglican service, Choral Evensong is traditionally Evening Prayer Rite One with the responses sung by the choir. The choir will be singing the St. James Responses by Rachel Aarons, the Appleby Canticles by Tony Royse and other choral selections by George Root and Sherri Porterfield. An offering will be received to benefit our Music Ministry at Holy Cross. All are invited and encouraged to come!

YOUTH SUNDAY

On Sunday, May 15th, at the 10:30 service, our EYC young people will take a variety of leadership roles in our worship. For a small parish, Holy Cross is blessed to have wonderful participation from our youth in both worship and fellowship activities. A SPECIAL thanks to Justin and Susan Finch for their hard work in pulling this Youth Sunday together; to Susan Caraway, our terrific EYC adult leader; and thank you, young people, for your assistance!

Healing Eucharist



Due to Fr. Steve's absence during a substantial number of weekdays during May, the Tuesday service of Healing and Holy Eucharist (11:30am) will NOT be held during the month of May. We will resume this weekly service on the first Tuesday of June.



The Farmers' Market is back at Holy Cross for the 2016 season. The weekly hours will be each Tuesday, 1:00 to 6:00pm and each Saturday, 8:00am until noon. Local farmers will be selling lettuce, tomatoes, plums, strawberries, watermelons, peaches, local honey and other fresh produce as the season progresses.

A Brief Note of Thanks to each of you Holy Cross Parishioners who have been so wonderful with words of comfort, prayers, hugs, cards, and gifts through these past months and weeks.

From Anne Henderson's Family

Ladies' Night Out

Thursday, May 26th

6:30pm

Sherry's Café

in Trussville

A sign-up sheet is in the Genesis Room.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES!



Keith Bain
Melissa Bain
Stuart Turner
Eva Cate Underwood
Johnny Underwood

LADIES OF HOLY CROSS

The Birmingham ECW Convocation Spring Meeting will be held Saturday, May 7th, 10:00am-noon at St. Mary's-on-the-Highlands. The guest speaker will be Lindsey Mullen, Executive Director of Special Session. For further information, please see the bulletin board near the parish office.

Volunteers Needed: Carpenter House has found that it is important to have an actual person answer the phone and meet the public – hence the need for volunteers. The shifts are for three hours, Monday through Friday, and you may do it as often or little as you like. Parking is provided in the adjacent parking lot. For further information, please contact Martha Noble at 910-4224 or martha.noble@att.net.

ECW

The Mary & Martha of Bethany Guild of the ECW will have its next meeting on Wednesday, May 25th at 11:45am in the Genesis Room. All ladies of the church are invited to attend to help plan activities and business for the rest of the year and beyond. The forthcoming rummage sale (to be held in September) will be discussed as well as other important matters. Bring a sandwich--drinks and other items will be furnished. We look forward to seeing you.

The Lenten Week lunch held at the Methodist Church was successful and fun. We had many hands which made it easy. Thanks to everyone who participated.



"I'm going into all the world to make disciples of all nations. So I might be a little late for dinner."